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Appropriations Committee
February 05, 2008

[AGENCY 51]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Thank you. If we can do the education center for you, and I've been through your facilities--and I'll inform the rest of the committee they are literally holding classes in, it appeared to be, an old barn--will you be able to build this and still hold classes? What's the time frame? Because, if I remember right, the educational building will go almost where the...where you're holding classes now. Is that not correct?

[AGENCY 51]

WELDON SLEIGHT: I think that we can move it a bit east and keep the dairy barn until it's built. We'll have to take the horse facility out, but that will...that's a less costly structure and we think we can do it and maintain our classes as we are now teaching them. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Okay. Are there any other questions? Seeing none, you would like to... [AGENCY 51]

WELDON SLEIGHT: Yes, I'd like to introduce my friend and mentor, Dr. George Garlick. He's a scientist, he's a teacher, an administrator, a business developer and, most important, he's a farm boy from Frontier County and if I didn't introduce him as that I would have missed the point entirely. Dr. Garlick. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Welcome. [AGENCY 51]

GEORGE GARLICK: (Exhibits 7-12) Thank you very much, Chairman Heidemann, distinguished members of the committee. I'm George Garlick, G-e-o-r-g-e G-a-r-l-i-c-k. I'm so honored and humbled to be here because I see that this session and this subject is probably the most important that I can envision for the city of Curtis but more so for rural Nebraska and what it means to the economy. And I say in my businesses I...by the way, I'm a resident of Richland, Washington, and I'm president of Garlick Enterprises

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Appropriations Committee
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and I'm also owner and founder of 20 other companies that are currently active in the state of Washington. And I say to my people, it's okay to be passionate about what you do. I'm passionate about this meeting. I'm passionate about Curtis and I'm passionate about the University of Nebraska and the College of Technical Agriculture. So I wanted to share with you just three areas of comments: first of all that what it means to make a commitment; secondly, what's the credibility that's behind that commitment. Because if you make a commitment and you have credibility, you're going to have confidence, confidence in the results that you achieve that they will, in fact, be there. And I say that, to me, commitment is one of the most important elements to success of any business. You're always going to find things that happen that you didn't want or didn't expect, but people that are committed see it through. And you've got people that are committed in the city of Curtis. They are here in this room in spirit. They had a bus chartered to come down here to be with us and, unfortunately, I hear that the roads were so bad in Frontier County that they could not make it. So I'm speaking for them and their commitment. But what I want to briefly do is just give you a little bit of background. As Weldon said, I was born and raised on a dryland farm in Frontier County. I still own the farm, developing it, but my father started going blind when I was 12 years old and we were forced to move off the farm. We went to Curtis in 1949 and my father was given a job as janitor at the UNSA, University of Nebraska School of Agriculture. It was a high school at that time. I graduated there in 1954. Although his job was only \$1 an hour and I worked beside him at 40 cents an hour, our family is dedicated and committed to what the University of Nebraska did, not just in Lincoln and the quality that you have here but you came right to us in Curtis, in Frontier County. And you not only met a need; you've virtually saved our existence. When you come off a farm and your father is going blind and you get the job and the education, it has an impact on you. So it is not without passion that I chose to give back to the community. My first thought was to contribute to a community center. I've provided more than \$1 million to that through the Nebraska Community Foundation. There's a letter in your booklet in the back from the Nebraska Community Foundation. But it was then that I met Dr. Weldon Sleight and...of NCTA and that commitment of...to the Curtis Memorial Community Center led to a commitment to bring one of my

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companies back. And so what we have done is brought back a company and formed it in Curtis, specifically as a relationship to the economic development and the programs that Dr. Sleight has, and I will make comments on that. But as we move that back then their dedication to NCTA just grew, and so that is why my passion to be with you today and what it represents and my passion for the university and my encouragement for you fully funding areas that President Milliken and those have done and what they do as in outreach. So just quickly, from a credibility standpoint, I've always looked at education and I respect Senator Harms's comment earlier of the way out of poverty is education and the way to bring one forward is education. I have always been devoted to education. As I went through the process, I taught at UCLA, I taught at Iowa State, and I've taught at South Dakota School of Mines. And so when I got out, I took a job in eastern Washington solely so I could teach and guide students, because they had no one else with a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. I had so much passion for that that in 1967, at the age of 31, they appointed me dean and it was dean of a university complex that was meeting in wood structures as an annex to a hospital. I first got my first experience in public-private partnership as I personally went to the state government, the federal government, and private industry and raised money to build the first campus. That campus is now Washington State University Tri-Cities, meeting and exceeding all expectations that we had ever had from it. There's a document in the back from the chancellor of Washington State University regarding economic development that we achieved. But that wasn't enough. We needed economic development of our community because we were a sunset community. It's a Hanford project that's cleanup and it's going to end, and we need to have a life after that for our kids and our grandkids. So I was cochair of the Tri-Cities Science and Technology Park Association starting in 1989 and I just wanted to tell you the success. It works. And again, Senator Harms made the comment about partnerships. Partnerships are critical. There's an element that the private sector can do that can bring this about and make things happen, and then the positive starts feeding on the positive and your attitude of negative goes to positive and you certainly come forward to it. We are now listed in the top ten university related research parks in the United States. At this same time, and we brought in more than 50

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Appropriations Committee
February 05, 2008

companies now since 1989 into the economy of that community, university related research park. And in 2002 I was awarded a distinguished alumni award from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and in the same way that I took over the university there in a negative environment--and Senator Heidemann says that there was, you know, concern about NCTA--the concern we had about the other two illustrations I'm going to have is less than what those exist and yet we succeeded in them and turned...totally turned that around. But I was asked to give a speech. It was standing room only. There was no infrastructure of university related economic development. We pulled it together. There now is an economic development going and the reality is now they're contributing more than \$108 million to the economy of South Dakota, and for every state \$1 there's \$7.57 that goes back to the state. Resulting in this start and the university related, on the private side of my life we've developed the Stevens Center Business Park. I didn't want to include all of these but I just wanted to tell you that, if anyone is interested, we have information on it. And this is a leading business park in the state of Washington. We're in the top five of the technology business parks in the state of Washington. We have brought more than \$70 million back to the tax base of that community. Because what I look at is return on investment for education, return on investment for education, and that's what Dr. Sleight and his program have done. At the university, we started a business links program. He started the EDGE program. It's a parallel. In addition to that, again the public-private partnership, I'm currently working on building a technical high school in our area. You know the concern about capital budgets in education. It's a private-public partnership and we're going into that and I will personally be putting in funds, subsidizing the building, building it, and putting the first technical high school in the state of Washington in. They will go automatically into the university. They will have training at the national lab and the teachers in education at Washington State Tri-Cities will have an experience that nobody else has--a four-year observation of teaching science classes--as they go into the workplace. But more importantly, we've developed technology. I am the inventor of ultrasonic holography. It is a means of making real-time images and sound, 140 images per second and sound, safe. We are applying it primarily to imaging of lesions of

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Appropriations Committee
February 05, 2008

the breast. We've gotten a Frost and Sullivan award, a Wall Street Journal award, an award from the RSNA. But what I have also wanted to do was look back to Nebraska, and so we have brought that technology back to Nebraska in Frontier Technologies, which is the first company in the entrepreneurial park in Curtis with NCTA. These are the kind of passions that we have and we're even starting and looking into starting an entrepreneurial center even in Curtis with a local attorney there providing attorney services; a local accountant, a private accountant; my former classmate at Hastings College who has a large patent law practice in Denver providing patent law. These are the kinds of resources. We've got...we've got, I believe, the best people in the world in the state of Nebraska. I believe that. I've been around the world. And what we don't have is the opportunity of these people sometimes to stay in Nebraska and get the kind of jobs that they otherwise can get in other areas. In addition to that, I started the Gloria Meek Garlick Foundation and we're taking the imaging around the world to underserved nations. I've got a cross relationship with my medical company that in the United States I also can provide those imaging services to the Native American. We're working with the Sioux Nation. We're working with the Umatilla Nation. So confidence, confidence that we can do it because we have done it, confidence with committed people, individuals like Dr. Sleight and what he means to the institution and the people that they have served. And as said, there are three elements of needs or impediments. One was the activity center, two is the residence hall. I have built over 600,000 square feet of facilities. I have personally funded up to \$76 million worth of construction and I have done certain things with public-private in a way that works, and I am committed to do whatever is needed to allow this passion of Dr. Sleight's and the community to go forward. So it is with that, that I thank you for the opportunity. I flew in just for this even though a flight was cancelled in Denver. I just reverted to Omaha and couldn't get into Lincoln, went to Omaha. Dr. Sleight picked me up. I'm sorry my people from Curtis are not here but they're here in spirit and I'm here in spirit to thank you for your considerations and to recognize that I know of no other institution, of all my area, I have no other institution that is better managed more passionately there than NCTA, and I know of no other institution that is addressing the need of rural America and rural

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Nebraska for the betterment of this United States of America than NCTA. So I applaud you for your consideration and I'm asking you to consider joining me to see that these important programs go forward. Thank you. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Are there any questions? [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR ENGEL: All I want to do is thank you very, very, very much for coming here today. It was very enlightening. Thank you. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR KRUSE: Yes, thank you. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Senator Fulton. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR FULTON: I should say something that...engineering, right, electrical?
[AGENCY 51]

GEORGE GARLICK: That's correct. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR FULTON: And you do the profession proud so I just want to thank you for that too. [AGENCY 51]

GEORGE GARLICK: Well, God bless you. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR ENGEL: My son is an electrical engineer. [AGENCY 51]

GEORGE GARLICK: That is good. It's a good way to start your contribution to society.
[AGENCY 51]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: You might not be the right person to ask, but how many rooms are you thinking about putting in? How many kids per room? [AGENCY 51]

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Appropriations Committee
February 05, 2008

GEORGE GARLICK: I will ask Dr. Sleight to recomment on that. I believe it's 144?
[AGENCY 51]

WELDON SLEIGHT: It's 144. [AGENCY 51]

GEORGE GARLICK: A hundred and forty-four rooms. The main role that I will play is allowing, through the university relationship, with a dorm system and being able to subsidize and see that that happens in a way that you have the greatest return on your money from that area. But with 144 new rooms of new residence hall with the educational wing, with the activity center you're going to be proud of what you see in the next two, three, four, five years in Curtis, Nebraska. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Senator Wightman. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: I also want to thank you for being here today. You take passion to a new level I think. With regard to the residence hall, we talked about doubling the population or doubling the enrollment. [AGENCY 51]

GEORGE GARLICK: Right. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Does this take care of doubling the enrollment of traditional students or is this just where we are now? [AGENCY 51]

GEORGE GARLICK: I would like to have Dr. Sleight come up and join me and I will just stand here, if that's acceptable. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR ENGEL: We'll get you a chair. [AGENCY 51]

GEORGE GARLICK: No, it's okay. [AGENCY 51]

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Appropriations Committee
February 05, 2008

WELDON SLEIGHT: What it does, Senator, is it allows us to bring some...keep using the old dormitories. We think that if we have some new dormitories there so that students have a choice, that that will work. And we hope that we still have many students that will come and say, we would rather spend less money on housing. Our dormitories are in really good shape but they...but they use common bathrooms and they're very small. You've been there, some of you, or you know what they are because you've lived there when you went to school. But we need some more up-to-date dormitories for many of our students. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: I didn't see your figure on how many students you have now and how many of those may be traditional students that live on campus or in the city of Curtis. [AGENCY 51]

WELDON SLEIGHT: We have...we've asked the city of Curtis to take care of our sophomore students, we take care of the freshmen students. We have currently 150 beds available. Will the next dormitory, will the next residence hall take care of our needs? No, it won't get us up to the 600 that we need to be. But we think, as we add those additional students and have some opportunities to do some more development work and also have the revenue coming in, that we can finance the next residence hall. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Thank you. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Are you going to be able to do this? I know who you compete with probably when it comes to a residence hall and that's community colleges. Are you going to be able to cost these things out to the students and be competitive? [AGENCY 51]

WELDON SLEIGHT: We couldn't without George Garlick. That's been the problem up

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Rough Draft

Appropriations Committee
February 05, 2008

until now, is we could not...we didn't have a big enough revenue to pay the cost. And so Dr. Garlick can build those more economical. And maybe you need to talk about how you'll do that. [AGENCY 51]

GEORGE GARLICK: It's two things, Senator. Number one, if the private sector is part of the partnership and subordinating themselves totally to the interest of the ultimate area of education, subordinating themselves even to the degree of making contribution and having no requirement whatsoever on return on investment. I have gone into many projects that I had no return on investment. I've got a negative return on investment; I got a positive return on what I do for the community. But the reality of it is there are ways that you can partnership with that where you have the controls over it that is acceptable to the public sector but you use private construction practices. You reduce the costs there. The second thing is you have to have a private sector that is contributing to that because you want to have...the end result is affordable housing that is modern that you enhance the ultimate product. And the other product is educating these students from rural America. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Just to make sure we get it on record, you're going on record as saying that if we, as a state, come up and do the educational facilities, you are going to step up and help with the residence hall. [AGENCY 51]

GEORGE GARLICK: That is absolutely correct, with passion. And I've talked with officials of the university's, under agreements that we would see how that could be done, but in terms of seeing it (inaudible) and taking the risk out of it for the university and for the student, I am stepping into that commitment right now. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Thank you very much. Are there any other questions? Seeing none, I appreciate both of you. I appreciate you flying in from the state of Washington to be before us today. [AGENCY 51]

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February 05, 2008

GEORGE GARLICK: Okay. All right. Thank you, sir. [AGENCY 51]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: You bet. Is there anyone else wishing to testify on Agency 51, the University of Nebraska? Welcome. [AGENCY 51]